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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,846	12/11/2003	Jeffrey Daniel Williams	14314	9016
21552	7590	03/09/2006	EXAMINER	
MADSON & AUSTIN GATEWAY TOWER WEST SUITE 900 15 WEST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101			WEBB, TIFFANY LOUISE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/733,846

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Tiffany L. Webb

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-12, 15, 23 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 13-14, and 16-19 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/9/04 and 4/11/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I in the reply filed on 1/19/2006 is acknowledged. However, the examiner notes that the applicant has elected claims that do not apply to the elected Species I. Claims 7-8 appear to be drawn to non-elected Species III, therefore these claims will not be examined.
2. Claims 7-12, 15, and 23-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species II and III, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 1/19/2006.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the airbag cushion as a steering wheel-mounted driver's side airbag, an overhead airbag, a pillar-mounted airbag, a knee bolster, and a curtain airbag must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet,

and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: on line 5, "an deployment system" is improper grammar. Examiner suggests changing to "a deployment system." Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hill (US 5,813,696). Regarding claim 20, Hill discloses a having an inflatable airbag cushion (30) including: a contact panel (42); a reaction panel(36); and a limiting tether (70 and 80) having a first end near the contact panel (100) and a second end linked to the

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reaction panel (88) with a releasable joint (about 70), wherein the inflated depth of the airbag cushion is limited during inflation by the tether until the cushion has reached a predetermined inflated breadth (col. 1, lines 29-36). Regarding claim 21, Hill discloses the releasable joint is joined using an adhesive, releasable stitching, or frangible stitching (col. 4, lines 58-64). Regarding claim 22, Hill discloses having an airbag cushion as a dashboard-mounted passenger's side airbag (see Figure 1).

7. Claims 20-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moriset (US 5,308,113). Regarding claim 20, Moriset discloses a having an inflatable airbag cushion (10) including: a contact panel (20); a reaction panel (30); and a limiting tether (50 and 52) having a first end near the contact panel (38 or 48) and a second end linked to the reaction panel (46) with a releasable joint (42), wherein the inflated depth of the airbag cushion is limited during inflation by the tether until the cushion has reached a predetermined inflated breadth (col. 2, lines 16-18). Regarding claim 21, Hill discloses the releasable joint is joined using releasable stitching or frangible stitching (col. 2, lines 54-55). Regarding claim 22, Hill discloses having an airbag cushion as a dashboard-mounted passenger's side airbag (see Figure 1).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-6, 13-14, and 16-19 are allowed.

9. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest having an inflatable cushion having a contact panel, a reaction panel, a deployment restraint system that restricts the direction of the cushion toward a vehicle occupant in a

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first direction and having a releasable joint having a release trigger, also the airbag cushion expanding in a second direction at an angle to the first actuating the release trigger. Further, the prior art, individually or in combination, fails to disclose, teach, or suggest having an airbag cushion having a contact panel, a reaction panel, a reaction tether attached to the reaction panel and another panel, and a limiting tether having a first end attached to the contact panel and the second end linked to an intermediate portion of the reaction tether with a releasable joint. The prior art does show airbag cushions with tethers, but does not show the limitations of having a second tether for controlling the direction or a second tether connected to the intermediate portion or the first tether by releasable joint.

Conclusion

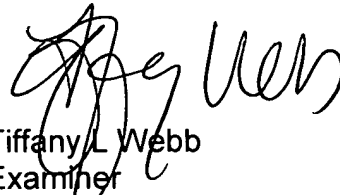
10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following are all airbags with airbag inflation restraint systems: Greib et al. (US 6,390,501), Pack, Jr. (US 6,315,323), Mac Brien et al. (US 5,513,877), Bakhsh et al. (US 2004/0256841), and Heym et al. (US 6,334,627).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tiffany L. Webb whose telephone number is 571-272-2797. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 571-272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

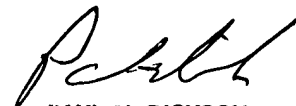
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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tiffany L Webb
Examiner
Art Unit 3616

tlw


3/3/06
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